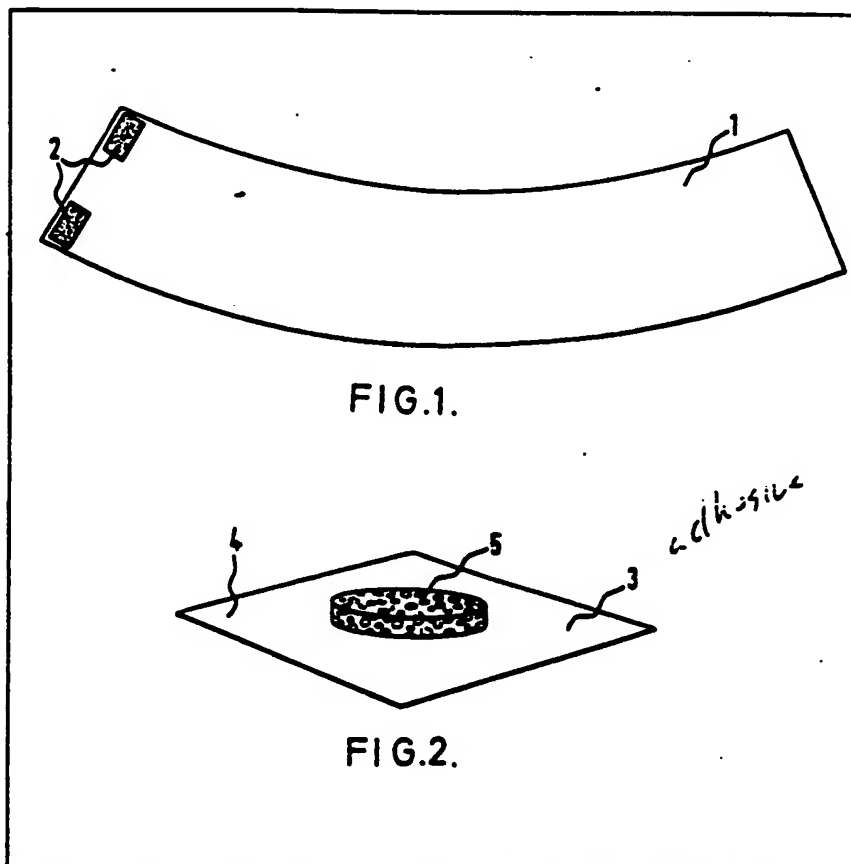


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(54) Decorative blank

(57) A set of materials for decorating a generally frusto-conical flower-pot comprises a flexible waterproof sheet or liner (3) - a laminate of paper with a film of polymer or acetate with an adhesive coating on one side - an absorbent pad (5) of expanded polymeric material or natural rubber and a decorative arcuate band (1) shaped as a sector of an annulus with side edges converging towards the centre of the annulus. The pad (5) is placed upon the liner (3), the flower-pot (6) is placed upon the pad (5) and the sides of the liner (3) are pulled up and stuck to the flower-pot. Then the decorative band (1) is placed around the flower-pot on top of the pulled-up sides of the liner (3) and the band (1) is secured in place.



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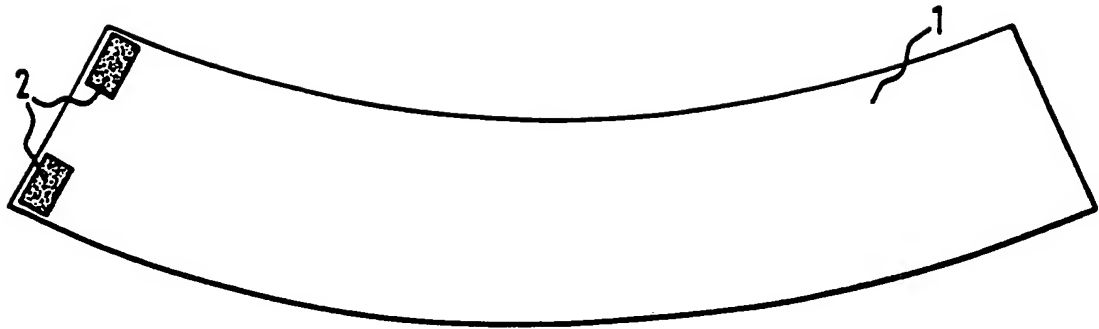


FIG. 1.

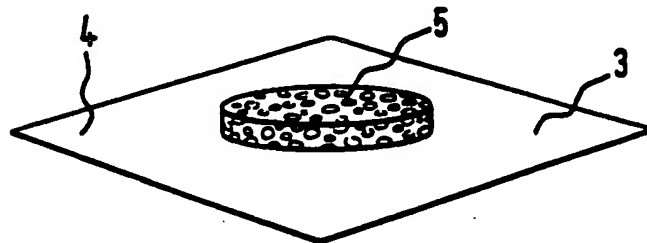


FIG. 2.

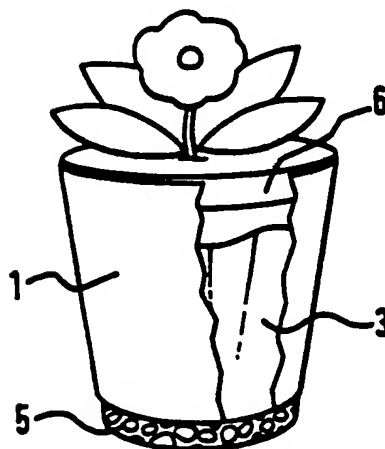


FIG. 3.

SPECIFICATION

Decorative blank

- 5 This invention relates to a deformable strip of material to be applied as a decorative surface to a frusto-conical article such as a flowerpot.

The external appearance of flowerpots, whether of earthenware or synthetic polymer, is not always compatible with the decoration of a living room. While various rigid decorative surrounds are available, they cannot generally be used for flowerpots of different sizes, and in general are available in a range of sizes in a unified style.

- 10 The present invention sets out to provide a form of surface covering for flowerpots which can be readily applied over the surface, and which can be embodied in a range of sizes whereby a number of flowerpots in a room are provided with the same pleasing external appearance. The surface covering can be applied to standard flowerpots, such as large or full, small or dwarf flowerpots.

In one aspect the invention provides a combination of waterproof sheet of material, a pad of deformable substantially absorbent material, and an arcuate band of deformable substantially inextensible material, in the shape of a sector of an annulus with straight sides converging preferably radially towards the centre of the annulus, whereby the material can be wrapped around so that one end overlaps the other to provide a frusto-conical shape open at each end and having its smaller end of generally equivalent size of absorbent pad.

The waterproof material can be a synthetic polymer or of suitably treated cellulosic material such as a laminate of polymer or acetate film and paper. It can be of any convenient shape, but will generally be square, or possibly hexagonal in appearance. One side of the sheet of waterproof material is covered with a suitably contact adhesive. It is intended that the edges of the materials shall be roughly folded upwards and stuck to the side of the flowerpot and that the arcuate strip of material shall be wrapped around the folded-up edges. In practice, this will be done by placing a flowerpot on the pad of substantially deformable, absorbent material which is placed at or near the centre of the sheet of waterproof material, roughly folding up the marginal regions around the base of the flowerpot, sticking the sheet of waterproof material to the side of the flowerpot, thereafter wrapping the arcuate strip of material around the flowerpot so that its edges overlap.

Preferably the pad of deformable, substantially absorbent material is made of an expanded or foamed synthetic polymeric material or natural rubber. The pad is approximately 12.7 mm (3/16") in thickness, and has a diameter varying according to the size of flowerpot, but being preferably three sizes 63.5, 76.2 and 101.6 mm (2.5", 3" and 4").

Preferably the arcuate strip of material is provided with suitable securing means such as an adhesive or roughened or otherwise interengaging nature, such as for example the material under the registered trade mark of "Velcro". However, it is possible for

the material to be attached by a suitable clip at its upper and/or lower edges, and possible to be attached by the application of a suitable extensible elastic material.

- 70 The arcuate strip of material is preferably a laminate of a textile of coarse fabric with a non-woven cellulosic material such as stiff paper. Preferably it possesses water resistant properties, so that subsequent watering of the plant does not destroy the integrity of the paper. Most preferably it is in the form of a coarse open weave of hessian material, for example as provided for wall coverings.

The size of the arcuate strip of material will be variable over a wide range, and is related to the standard size of flowerpots. Generally speaking it will be the sector of an annulus from 50.8 to 254 mm (2" - 10") in radial dimension and from 101.6 to 914.4 mm (4" - 36") long, preferably from 177.8 to 381 mm (7" - 15").

- 85 The invention will be further described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 shows an enlarged back view of an arcuate strip of material;

- 90 Figure 2 shows a suitably dimensioned sheet of waterproof material, having a pad of deformable absorbent placed on the centre thereof;

Figure 3 shows a flowerpot having a sheet of waterproof material assembled thereto and a broken view of the arcuate strip of material assembled around the sheet of waterproof material in accordance with the invention.

Figure 1 shows an enlarged back view of an arcuate strip of material 1. The arcuate strip of material is provided with a suitable securing means 2, such as an adhesive or roughened or otherwise interengaging nature, such as for example material under the registered trade mark of "Velcro". The strip of material 1 is formed of a laminate of a textile or coarse fabric with a non-woven cellulosic material such as stiff paper. In order to prevent damage to the strip of material 1, the strip is made of a water resistant material to avoid damage by water to the strip of material. The textile is in the form of a coarse open weave of hessian material, for example as provided for wall coverings.

Figure 2 shows a generally square sheet of waterproof material 3, hereafter referred to as the waterproof liner. The liner is made of a suitable polymer/acetate, and has one side 4 which is covered with a suitable contact adhesive. Figure 2 also shows a pad 5 of an expanded or foamed synthetic polymeric material or natural rubber placed at or near the centre of the waterproof liner 3. The pad 5 is approximately 12.7 mm (3/16") in thickness, and has a diameter varying according to the size of flowerpot which is to be placed thereon.

When a pot plant in a standard flowerpot is watered, and especially when the earth within the flowerpot is slightly dry, the water can pass straight through the earth and out of the drainage holes located in the base of the flowerpot. Thus, it is normally essential for a standard flowerpot to be seated in a dish or saucer, in which surplus water can be collected.

The waterproof liner 3 is supplied with a backing paper to protect and cover the layer of contact adhesive on the side 4 of the waterproof liner 3. Once the backing paper has been removed, the pad 5 is placed centrally on the side 4 having the contact adhesive of the waterproof liner 3. The pad 5 is available in a number of sizes depending on the size of flowerpot. The diameter of the pad 5 corresponds to the diameter of the base of a standard flowerpot.

10 A flowerpot 6 is placed on top of the pad 5. The waterproof liner 3 is then pulled up and stuck to the side of the flowerpot 6. Figure 3 shows the flowerpot 6 with the adhesive backed waterproof liner 3 pulled up and stuck to the side of the flowerpot. The arcuate strip 1 is then wrapped around the waterproof liner, so as to provide a pleasing external appearance to the flowerpot. The free ends of the arcuate strip 1 overlap each other, when the strip is placed around the flowerpot.

20 It is thus possible to water a plant within the flowerpot 6, without the possibility of water leaving the flowerpot through the holes located in the base of the flowerpot and damaging adjacent furniture. Water passing through the soil in the flowerpot will pass through the holes in the base of the flowerpot into the pad of deformable, absorbent material, which is, for example, a sponge-like material.

25 If the pad 5 was not located beneath the flowerpot 6, any surplus water passing through the flowerpot will leave the flowerpot through the holes in the base and pass up the air space between the waterproof liner 3 and the exterior surface or the flowerpot. In such an event, if the flowerpot is moved, the pressure of one's hand could force the water up over the liner.

30 Any water forced up over the liner would spill over and possibly damage either the strip of arcuate material 1, if in place around the waterproof liner, or wet and subsequently mark the piece of furniture on which the flowerpot is positioned.

35 Thus, the pad 5 acts as a 'reservoir' preventing (a) the passage of surplus water from the flowerpot to the immediate surroundings and (b) insuring that the base of the flowerpot is kept damp at all times, and thus avoiding drying and evaporation of the soil within the flowerpot.

40 The arcuate strip 1 possesses water resistant properties, so that subsequent watering of the plant does not destroy the integrity of the paper. The size of the arcuate strip will be variable over a wide range, and is related to the standard sizes of flowerpots. Generally speaking, it will be the sector of an annulus from 50.8 to 254 mm (2" - 10") in radial dimension and from 101.6 to 914.4 mm (4" - 36") in annular dimension, preferably from 177.8 to 381 mm (7" - 15") long. Three sizes of arcuate strip, namely large, small and dwarf, will be used for covering flowerpots. The large arcuate strip is capable of covering the surface of a large or full flowerpot having its larger diameter equal to 139.7 mm (5.5") or 152.4 mm (6"). The small arcuate strip is capable of covering the surface of a small flowerpot having its larger diameter equal to 88.9 mm (3.5"), 101.6 mm (4"), 114.3 mm (4.5") or 127 mm (5"). The dwarf arcuate strip is capable of covering the surface of a dwarf flowerpot having its larger diameter equal to

88.9 mm (3.5") or 146.1 mm (5.75").

CLAIMS (filed 4 March 1982)

- 70 1. A set of materials for use in combination to decorate the outside of a generally frusto-conical flowerpot, the materials comprising a flexible waterproof sheet, a deformable absorbent pad and a deformable substantially inextensible decorative band such that, in use, the pad can be placed upon the sheet, the flowerpot can be placed upon the pad, portions of the sheet can be made to line the side of the flowerpot and the band can be secured around the side of the flowerpot over said portions of the sheet.
- 80 2. A set of materials as claimed in claim 1 wherein the flexible waterproof sheet is a laminate of paper with a film of polymer or acetate.
- 85 3. A set of materials as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein one side of the flexible waterproof sheet is at least partly covered with an adhesive.
4. A set of materials as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the pad comprises expanded polymeric materials.
- 90 5. A set of materials as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the pad comprises natural rubber.
6. A set of materials as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the band is substantially arcuate.
- 95 7. A set of materials as claimed in claim 6 wherein the band is shaped as a sector of an annulus with side edges converging towards the centre of the annulus.
8. A set of materials as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the band is a laminate of a textile or coarse fabric with a non-woven cellulosic material.
- 100 9. A set of materials as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the band comprises means for securing side edges of the band together.
10. In combination, a generally frusto-conical flowerpot and a set of materials as claimed in any preceding claim.
- 105 11. In combination, a generally frusto-conical flowerpot and a set of materials comprising a flexible waterproof sheet, a deformable absorbent pad and a deformable substantially inextensible band, the pad being placed upon the sheet, the flowerpot being placed upon the pad, portions of the sheet lining the side of the flowerpot, and the band being secured around the side of the flowerpot over said portions of the sheet.
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